

REMARKS

This amendment is presented in response to the Office Communication dated June 27, 2006. In the Office Communication, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement, indicating that Claims 1-8 (Species 1), Claims 9-15 (Species 2), Claims 16-22 (Species 3), and Claims 23-26 (Species 4) were patentably distinct species.

In response, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of the patentability of the Claims as filed. Nonetheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution of this matter, and without adopting the characterization of the Claims provided in the Action, Applicant elects Claims 1-8 (Species 1) for prosecution herein.

Additionally, a preliminary amendment has been made: claims 5 and 6 have been amended to correct an editorial error; a new set of article claims (claims 27-34) have been added. Newly added claims 27-34 recites limitations similar to those recited in claims 1-8. Thus, claims 1-8 and claims 27-34 are not patentably distinct.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 264-1700. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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